

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01141 01 OF 02 080910Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 HA-05 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
/079 W

-----110829 080921Z /23

O R 071606Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7415
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK I
INFO AMEMBASSY BONNJ
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 1141

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, WA, SF
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: BOTHA'S JUNE 6 REMARKS

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS JUNE 6 REMARKS IN PARLIAMENT ON
NAMIBIA, BOTHA WAS MORE POLEMICAL THAN IN HIS PREPARED
STATEMENT THE PREVIOUS DAY AND HE STRONGLY CRITICIZED
AMBASSADOR MCHENRY. BOTHA APPEARED TO-BE SETTING THE
STATE FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND OF
POSSIBLE SAG ACQUIESCENCE IN THE SLIPPAGE OF THE INDEPENDENCE
DATE.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
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2. FOLLOWING IS ADVANCE HANSARD TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTER
BOTHA'S REMARKS IN ENGLISH ON THE SUBJECT OF NAMIBIA.
QUOTE: THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS TOLD ME: "YOU CANNOT REALLY
HAVE A REALISTIC SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA
UNLESS ALL THE PARTIES ONCE AND FOR ALL SET ASIDE THE LONG
DRAWN OUT LEGALITIES AND LEGAL DISPUTES." WE ACCEPTED THAT.
WE ACCEPTED IT AS A REASONABLE PROPOSITION FOR

PROCEEDING WITH THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND EVENTUALLY
ACCEPTING THE PROPOSALS. WHAT DOES MR. MCHENRY DO? HE
ARRIVES IN THIS COUNTRY AND HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCES
THE VERY DAY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THIS COUNTRY AND
MYSELF ARE HOLDING TALKS IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S
OFFICE WITH THE FIVE AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED TO THIS
COUNTRY, THE MAIN SPOKESMAN TRAVELS AROUND THE COUNTRY
ISSUING STATEMENTS LEFT, RIGHT AND CENTRE, STATEMENTS
IN WHICH HE BLAMES US FOR EVERYTHING. AT THAT TIME
WE WERE HOLDING DISCUSSIONS IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S
OFFICE WITH THE FIVE AMBASSADORS AND HAD COME TO AN
AGREEMENT THAT WE WOULD NOT TALK TO THE PRESS AT ALL.
WHEN THEY ASKED US TO KEEP IT AWAY FROM THE PRESS,
WE READILY AGREED. HOWEVER, THEIR MAIN SPOKESMAN
WAS THEN TRAVELING TO WINDHOEK AND CAPE TOWN AS IF
THIS WERE HIS NEW FOUND FORUM FROM WHICH HE COULD
ADDRESS THE WORLD. ONE CAN ALMOST SAY THAT IT WAS
HIS CONSTITUENCY. FURTHERMORE, HE COULD NOT CARE LESS
WHAT HE WAS SAYING. I MUST NOW CONDUCT DIPLOMACY
UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES* UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES
I MUST TRY TO TAKE OUR PEOPLE, OUR SUPPORTERS AND
THE LEADERS OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA WITH ME* UNDER
THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES THE HON. MEMBER FOR BUZUIDENHOUT
ASKS ME NOT TO BE IN A HURRY AND TO TAKE IT EASY.
HE EVEN ASKED ME TO LEAN OVER BACKWARDS.
NO. GOOD HEAVENS, MR. CHAIRMAN, IT IS ABSOLUTE
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NONSENSE. HOW MUCH LONGER CAN WE CARRY ON LIKE THIS?
HOW MUCH MORE PATIENCE MUST THE GOVERNMENT SHOW? HOW
MUCH MORE MUST WE DO TO SHOW OUR SINCERITY IN ACCEPTING
THESE PROPOSALS AND THAT WE ARE READY TO IMPLEMENT THEM?
WE WERE READY TO IMPLEMENT THEM ON 25, 26, 27 AND 28
APRIL. IN FACT, WE ARE STILL READY TO IMPLEMENT THEM
AS I AM SPEAKING HERE TODAY IN THIS HOUSE. HOWEVER,
FOR HOW MUCH LONGER THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO
WITHSTAND THE PRESSURE BEING EXERTED BY THE LEADERS
INSIDE THE TERRITORY OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA, I CANNOT SAY.
THEREFORE, IT IS NOT A CASE OF THE GOVERNMENT WANTING
TO DO ANYTHING ALONE OR GOING IT ALONE. IT IS NOT
THE GOVERNMENT WHO WANTS TO ENFORCE ITS WILL ON THE
PEOPLE OR ON ANYBODY. IT IS NOT THE GOVERNMENT THAT
TRIES TO BE INTRANSIGENT. I HAVE GIVEN HON. MEMBERS
A RECORD OF MY MOVEMENTS. I CAN TALK FOR HOURS AND
HOURS ON THIS SUBJECT, THE DIFFICULTIES THAT WE HAVE
ENCOUNTERED, THE CRITICAL STAGES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS,
THE MANY TIMES THAT WE REACHED A STALEMATE AND
HOW WE GOT OUT OF IT AGAIN. END QUOTE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 1141

3. THE FOLLOWING IS A PRESS REPORT OF THAT SECTION
OF FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA'S JUNE 6 REMARKS IN
AFRIKAANS IN PARLIAMENT DEALING WITH NAMIBIA. WHEN
FULL ENGLISH TRANSLATION IS AVAILABLE, EMBASSY WILL
CHECK ACCURACY OF PRESS REPORT.
QUOTE: BOTHA OUTLINED THE EVENTS LEADING TO SOUTH
AFRICA'S DECISION TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS OF THE FIVE
WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON
THE SWA/NAMIBIA ISSUE, SAYING THE DISCUSSIONS DURING
FOUR SEPARATE MEETINGS HAD LASTED SOME 90 HOURS.
EVEN AFTER THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSALS, ACTION
WAS SLOW IN COMING. ON MAY 2 THIS YEAR, BOTHA SAID,
HE HAD WRITTEN TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED
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NATIONS ASKING HIM TO USE HIS INFLUENCE TO GET SOME

MOVEMENT. AT THAT STAGE THE ISSUE WAS BEING DISCUSSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND A CONDEMNATORY, HUMILIATING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, WITH THE FIVE WESTERN COUNTRIES NOT OPPOSING IT, BUT MERELY ABSTAINING FROM VOTING. "THEY SAT THERE. IT WAS THEIR PROPOSALS, BUT THEY DID NOT VOTE," HE SAID.

QUOTE: SOUTH AFRICA, BOTHA SAID, HAD MEANWHILE ACQUITTED DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF SWAPO'S PLANS TO KILL CERTAIN PEOPLE IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA/NAMIBIA. THE COMPILERS OF THE DOCUMENT HAD BEEN SO ARROGANT AS TO SIGN IT.

QUOTE: SOUTH AFRICA HAD NOT KNOWN ON APRIL 25 THAT SWAPO WOULD REJECT THE PROPOSALS, HE SAID. "THIS GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE PROPOSALS ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT SWAPO COULD POSSIBLY ALSO ACCEPT THEM. OTHERWISE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A GAMBLE. WE ALSO ACCEPTED THE PROPOSALS LONG BEFORE WE DECIDED TO ACT AGAINST SWAPO BASES IN ANGOLA." IF THE ATTEMPTS TO APPEASE MR. NUJOMA DID NOT STOP, THE TERRITORY WOULD NEVER BECOME INDEPENDENT, BOTHA SAID. THE RAINY SEASON STARTED IN OCTOBER, AND IF THE NECESSARY STEPS TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN BY THEN, ACTION COULD ONLY BE TAKEN AGAIN AFTER THE RAINY SEASON, IN APRIL NEXT YEAR.

QUOTE: IF ACTION WAS NOT TAKEN SOON, HE WARNED, THE SITUATION WOULD BE AS UNRESOLVED BY APRIL NEXT YEAR AS IT WAS TODAY. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE WOULD BE THAT BY THEN HUNDREDS MORE WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED, THE SITUATION WOULD HAVE WORSENERED AND THIS UNDESIRABLE SITUATION WOULD HAVE DETRIMENTALLY AFFECTED WHITE, COLOURED AND BALCK PEOPLE IN THE TERRITORY. "WE ARE AT A VERY THORNY, A VERY DELICATE STAGE. BUT IF WE WANT

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TO REMAIN ANYWHERE NEAR THE TARGET DATE OF DECEMBER 31... A DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN SOON," HE SAID. "IF, AFTER WHAT E HAVE DONE IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA, WE'RE FOUND TO BE NOT GOOD ENOUGH, AND IF THIS WERE TO BRING SANCTIONS, THEN NOTHING WILL EVER BE GOOD ENOUGH," BOTHA SAID. UNQUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLY MORE POLEMICAL THAN HE HAD BEEN IN THE PREVIOUS DAY'S DEBATE (CAPE TOWN 1136), BOTHA WAS STILL CAUTIOUS IN DEALING WITH THE NAMIBIAN ISSUE. HE APPEARED TO BE SETTING THE STAGE FOR SOME ANNOUNCEMENT ON VOTER REGISTRATION AS THE "NECESSARY STEP" THAT MUST BE TAKEN PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE RAINY SEASON IN OCTOBER. HIS CAREFULLY PHRASED REMARKS HOWEVER, LEFT OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SAG WOULD ACQUIESCE IN SLIPPAGE OF THE

INDEPENDENCE DATE OF DECEMBER 31.
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Executive Order: GS
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